

**ASSESSMENT OF FLOODING ON THE SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN  
OGBA / EGBEMA / NDONI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA IN RIVERS STATE,  
NIGERIA**

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**ABSTRACT:** *This study assesses the effects of flooding on the Secondary School Students in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area of Rivers State, Nigeria, which occurred in October 2012. Data of this study were obtained from questionnaires, interview, personal observation, and newspaper report. A total of 90 respondents, drawn from residents in flood prone areas, were sampled for this study. Survey method was used in the analysis of data. The result of analysis showed that floods in Omoku occurred mostly at the event of rainfall intensity and amount and especially at rainy season but this particular flood occurred in October 2012 after the main rainy season (August/September). Factors other than rainfall identified to substantially influenced flooding in the study are: lack of good drainage network, dumping of wastes / refuse in drainage and water channels, topographic characteristics, overflowing of riverbanks, low infiltration due to high water table and degree of built up areas leading to increased runoffs, and climate changes. Despite the flood hazards, occupants in flood prone area have remained on the basis of no alternative, cultural ethnic affinity, schools, family home, place where students stayed used to flooding as the whole area suffered from flooding nature of occupation, and cheaper houses to rent, animals, and farm lands which will lead to hunger in the future in those affected areas, personal properties and public infrastructures also suffered all forms of flood damages. Flood mitigation measures also include river rechannelisation, raising school foundations, use of sand bags bridges and neighbor community efforts. Public enlightenment and necessary legislation and enforcement are recommended to checkmate activities aiding flooding.*

**KEYWORDS:** **Flooding, Ogba Egbema,/Ndoni LGA, Secondary School**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Hundreds of thousands of displaced people in Rivers State and particularly Omoku in Ogba /Egbema / Ndoni Local Government Area were camped in different houses and schools that were not affected by the floods due to the massive flood that caused by heavy rains and the overflowing of the River Niger. The people that were affected by the flood in Omoku were the people that resided close to the Omoku river bank. When the government of Rivers State visited the council she described the deluge as a monumental national disaster and added that the she must act swiftly. The penultimate heavy rain on that (Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2012, The Guardian Newspaper) created a deadly flood from the river that swept through vast areas of almost all the secondary schools in Omoku town without warning. According to Chima Abali in ‘The

Guardian Newspaper” of Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2012, he said that the initial attempts to use traditional solutions like sandbags as protection against the surging flood failed and within hours, all the sandbags were submerged. How amazing that a small, slow flowing river could cause such extensive damage to students, their schools and the places which they live.

This resulted in the closure of all affected schools, and thus, for almost two months academic activities were shutdown. In addition, as the water abated most classrooms and administrative offices were badly affected that teaching and learning process in these schools were almost impossible to occur. This will not only result in extra cost for repair and building new facilities on the government and school authorities but also will affect students’ performance in subsequent examinations, particularly external examination like WASSCE and NECO. It is on this wise that this research proposed to investigate the effect of flooding on secondary schools in Omoku, ONELGA of Rivers State.

**Design of the Study:** The design used in this study is a survey design. This design is based on the premise that it is the best or most ideal method of investigating the effect of flooding on the secondary schools, people’s opinion, attitude to which the study is all about.

**Research Questions:** The following research questions will guide the study:

1. To what extent did the flood affect the school infrastructure?
2. To what extent did the flood affect the student residential environment?
3. To what extent did the flood affect the student’s academic performance?

**Research Question 1:** To what extent did the Flood affect the School Infrastructure?

**Table1: Respondents response to questionnaire items in relation to research question one.**

S/N	Question Item	Affected(Yes)		Not affected (No)		Undecided		Total	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
1	Effects of the flood on the classroom	28	93.33	2	6.67	0	0	30	100
2	Effects of the flood on the school library	27	90	1	3.33	2	6.67	30	100
3	Effects of the flood on the school science laboratory	25	83.33	1	3.33	4	13.33	30	100
4	Effects of the flood on the school electricity	20	66.67	5	16.67	5	16.67	30	100

From Table1, the following deductions are made: 93.33% of respondents (students) had their classroom affected by the flood, 6.67% not affected while 0% was undecided. 90% of respondents (students) had their school library affected by the flood, 3.33% not affected while 6.67% were undecided. 83% of respondents (students) had their school’s science laboratory affected by the flood, 3.33% not affected while 13.33% were undecided. 66.67% of respondents (students) had their school electricity affected by the flood, 16.67% not affected while 16.67% were undecided.

**Research Question 2:** To what extent did the Flood affect the Student's Residential Environment?

**Table2: Respondents response to research question two.**

S/N	Question Item	Affected(Yes)		Not affected (No)		Undecided		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No	%
1	Was the road to your school affected by the flood	29	96.67	1	3.33	0	0	30	100
2	Was your community light affected by the flood	28	93.33	2	6.67	0	0	30	100
3	Was your community water supply affected by the flood	27	90	2	6.67	1	3.33	30	100
4	Was your shelter affected by the flood	28	93.33	2	6.67	0	0	30	100
5	Has there been any incident of flood before in your community	10	33.33	15	50	5	16.67	30	100

From the table 2. above, the following deductions are made: 96.67% had the road to their school affected by the flood; 3.33% were unaffected, 0% was undecided. 93.33% had the road to their school affected; 6.67% unaffected and 0% undecided. 90% had their community water supply affected; 6.67% were unaffected, 3.33% were undecided. 93.33% had their shelter affected; 6.67% were unaffected and 0% was undecided. 33.33% had had incidence of flooding before; 50.00% had not experienced such while 16.67% were undecided.

**Research Question 3:** To what extent did the Flood affect the Student's Academic Performance?

**Table 3: Respondents response to research question 3.**

S/N	Question Item	Affected (Yes)		Not affected (No)		Undecided		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	Did the flood affect your attendance at school	28	93.33	0	0	2	6.67	30	100
2	Did the flood affect your performance in class	28	93.33	1	3.33	1	3.33	30	100
3	Did the flood affect enrolment in your school?	27	90	2	6.67	1	3.33	30	100
4	Did everyone in your school return after the flooding	25	83.33	4	13.33	1	3.33	30	100
5	Where you happy at home while the flood lasted	10	33.33	15	50	5	16.67	30	100

From Table3. the following deductions are made: 93.33% had their attendance to school affected; 0% unaffected and 6.67% undecided. 93.33% had their performance in class affected; 3.33% were unaffected and 3.33% were undecided. 90% said the flood affected enrolment into their school; 6.67% said it did not affect enrolment into their school while 3.33% were undecided. 83.33% agreed that everyone returned after the flood; 13.33 disagreed while 3.33% were undecided. 33.33% were happy at home while the flood lasted; 50% were unhappy away from school while 16.67% were undecided

## **DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

Based on the responses it is clear from all indications that the students had no access to their classrooms and their school library. Thus, this greatly hindered teaching and learning process during the period of the flood. This finding agreed flood was said to have disrupted teaching and learning process through devastating effect on school infrastructural facilities.

Research question 2 in table 2, the effect of the flood was heavy on the route most students take to school, and also their residential houses, which results in most of the students relocate to new environment. Hence, most of the students could not afford transport fare to school, and as result majority of them have to change their schools. Research question 3, it revealed that most of the students did not return back to school after the flood incident. This had a great effect on the students' academic performance when they returned back to school after the flood abated.

## **SUMMARY OF THE STUDY**

It is important to emphasize that going by statistics the impact of the flood is overwhelming. As such it is urgent to take proactive steps to prevent such disastrous consequences. Kings College received the greatest blow. Infrastructure destruction, poor attendance and poor performance were recorded.

## **CONCLUSION**

This work has examined the effects of flooding on the secondary school students in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area of Rivers State, Nigeria based on the investigations carried out on the works of other authorities in relation to this study, and on the findings of this study, the following conclusion are made:

The effect of the flood on the school infrastructure was very great

The effect of the flood on the student's residential area was devastating.

The student's academic performance was low due to the effect of flood.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

In order to avoid or minimize the disastrous consequences of the effect of flood, I wish to suggest the following:

Constructed drains should be cleaned and freed from wastes.

Building on drains should be discouraged and defaulters fined.

Shoreline protection projects should be undertaken.

School buildings below the sea level should be relocated to a higher sea level.

State government should come to the aid the secondary school students that were affected by the flood especially in Omoku Town.

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